#148 The Manager's Unseen Side

RIHO-CHAAAN!

SeasideCafe' Familia

TODAY'S YOUR BIRTHDAY, RIGHT?

YEEES?

AH... SORRY, KIKU-CHAN.

I WAS THINKING OF MAKING SOME SPECIAL FOOD TO CELEBRATE, IS THERE ANYTHING THAT YOU'D LIKE?

ACTUALLY, SINCE IT'S MY BIRTHDAY TODAY...

...I'M GOING OUT TO DINNER WITH MY FAMILY.

OH... I SEE!

THAT'S GREAT!

WOW, IT SEEMS LIKE YOU GUYS ARE GETTING ALONG WELL.

WELL, DAD WAS PRETTY EXCITED ABOUT IT, SO HE INSISTED.

I FIGURED I MAY AS WELL GO ALONG WITH IT ALL.

I SEE.

WELL, HAVE A NICE RELAXING EVENING WITH YOUR FAMILY, THEN.

SORRY ABOUT THIS.

YOU LOOK HAPPY, RIHO-CHAN.

N-NOT ESPE-CIALLY!!

AWWW, WE'RE NOT HAVING A PARTY TONIGHT?!

BUT IT'S RIHO-SAN'S BIRTHDAY, YOU KNOW?!

DON'T BE RIDICU-LOUS.

WE COULD SET OUT A PLATE FOR HER IN THE HOPE THAT SHE'LL COME HOME!!

THERE WOULDN'T BE MUCH POINT IN HAVING A FANCY DINNER WITH THE MAIN CHARACTER MISSING, NOW, WOULD THERE?

BE QUIET AND EAT UP.

SHE SHOULD JUST RELAX AND ENJOY IT.

MAYBE, ALTHOUGH SHE SAID THAT SHE'D BE COMING STRAIGHT HOME AFTER-WARDS.

I WONDER IF RIHO-SAN'S ENJOYING HER EVENING WITH HER FAMILY RIGHT ABOUT NOW?

RIHO?

Riho Tsukishima

BZZZZ

BZZZZ

BZZZZ

HELLO.

WHAT IS IT?

HAVE YOU ALREADY FINISHED HAVING DINNER?

...

I'M KINDA SHAKY AND CAN'T WALK SO WELL, CAN YOU COME AND MEET ME AT THE STATION, HAYATO-KUN?

WE'RE AAALL DONE! BUT I DRANK A LITTLE TOO MUCH...

RIHO!

HEH HEH HEH! I REELED YOU RIGHT IN, DIDN'T I?

I'M NOT ACTUALLY DRUNK AT ALL!

IS THAT SO?

OH, THE OTHERS WANTED ME TO PASS ON SOME MESSAGES.

HUH?

WELL, SHOW US WHAT YOU'VE GOT.

YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO PRETEND YOU WERE DRUNK!

WE'LL LET YOU AT LEAST SPEND YOUR BIRTHDAY ALONE WITH HAYATO-KUN.

BUY SOME SNACKS ON YOUR WAY BACK, OKAY?!

WELL, WHATEVER.

I'D ALREADY FACTORED THAT IN ANYWAY.

HEY...AM I REALLY THAT PREDICTABLE?

SO THAT'S THAT.

WHAT? WE'RE NOT GOING HOME?

COME ON, IT'S MY BIRTHDAY.

WELL, IT SEEMS LIKE THE OTHERS ARE ALLOWING IT.

SO HANG OUT WITH ME A LITTLE.

BUT THERE'S ONE THING YOU GUYS ARE FORGETTING...

*In Japan, the legal drinking age is 20.

LAST MONTH, HAYATO-KUN TURNED TWENTY*!!

WELL...

...SURE. AS LONG AS WE'RE NOT OUT TOO LATE.

SO... WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO?

CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
A-AN IZAKAYA?
THAT'S RIGHT! SINCE YOU'RE TWENTY YEARS OLD NOW HAYATO-KUN, YOU CAN AT LEAST CELEBRATE WITH ME, RIGHT?
...
THAT'S ALL WELL AND GOOD, BUT...
...WHY HAVE YOU ORDERED ME THREE DIFFERENT DRINKS?

BUT I ALREADY ATE DINNER, SO I'M FULL.

NOW THAT YOU'RE OF LEGAL DRINKING AGE AND ALL.

SO THAT YOU CAN HAVE FUN TRYING OUT DIFFERENT FOODS THAT GO WELL WITH ALCOHOL.

THANK YOU!! NOW, WHILE YOU'RE EATING, TRY SOME RED WINE!! TAKE A GULP!!

F...FINE. HAPPY BIRTHDAY.

SURELY YOU CAN EAT AT LEAST ONE PIECE OF SASHIMI!! IT'S MY BIRTHDAY, YOU KNOW?!

GRANDMA ALWAYS SAID ONLY HEAVY DRINKERS USE BEER AS A CHASER.

THAT WAS AN EXAMPLE OF A BAD COMBINATION. NOW, RINSE YOUR MOUTH OUT WITH THIS CHASER AND THEN TRY IT WITH SOME SAKE.

BLEGH!!

IT TASTES ALL FISHY!!

OKAY, NOW DRINK SOME SAKE!!

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT.

THE FLOUNDER HERE IS REALLY GOOD TOO!!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT, JUST EAT UP!!

...OH.

IT'S REALLY GOOD...

RED WINE CONTAINS IRON, SO WHEN YOU DRINK IT WHILE EATING FISH, IT MAKES IT TASTE MORE FISHY.

WHEREAS THE AMINO ACIDS PRESENT IN SAKE SERVE TO BRING OUT THE TASTIER FLAVORS OF THE FISH. THERE ARE EXCEPTIONS TO THAT RULE, THOUGH.

WOW, THAT'S AMAZING, THERE'S A PROPER SCIENTIFIC EXPLANATION FOR IT.

HEARING THAT MAKES ME WANT TO TRY ALL SORTS OF COMBINATIONS!

OH, INCIDENTALLY, RED WINE GOES BEST WITH MEAT AND CHEESE.

HERE, TRY IT WITH THIS CAMEMBERT.

WHOA, YOU'RE RIGHT!!

THE CHEESE SOMEHOW TASTES BETTER!!

HEH HEH...

GOTCHA.

...THEN WHEN HE'S GOOD AND DRUNK I'LL TAKE HIM BACK TO THE HOTEL I RESERVED IN ADVANCE! IT'S THE PERFECT TACTIC!

THAT DOES PA R WE....

OH...

I'LL ACTIVATE HIS THIRST FOR KNOWLEDGE AS A FORMER TOKYO U STUDENT AND GET HIM WASTED BY HAVING HIM TRY A MIX OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF ALCOHOL...

OF COURSE! PLEASE WAIT A MOMENT.

EXCUSE ME! CAN I GET A WHISKY ON THE ROCKS AND SOME MIXED NUTS?

THAT'S RIGHT, KEEP DRINKING. DRINK MORE AND MORE ALCOHOL, AND LET ME SEE IT!

YOUR TRUE PERVERTED NATURE THAT ONLY COMES OUT WHEN YOU'RE DRUNK!!

HEY, RIHO! WHAT GOES BEST WITH WHISKY?!

MY, MY, YOU'RE REALLY ON A QUEST FOR FLAVOR, AREN'T YOU, HAYATO-KUN?

WHISKY WORKS BEST WITH NUTS OR DRIED FRJIT.

WOW, REALLY ?!

BY THE WAY...

...OH.

CHATTER

CHATTER

HUH?

HOW WAS...

DINNER WITH YOUR FAMILY TODAY?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

DID YOU HAVE FUN?

...I SEE.

コトッ

CLINK

AND DAD AND GRANDMA WERE SMILING THE WHOLE TIME... SO YEAH, IT WAS FUN.

WELL... YEAH... I GUESS.

MOM SEEMED HAPPY TO BE ABLE TO DRINK SAKE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A WHILE.

THAT'S GREAT!
TODAY'S A GOOD DAY!

I LIKE THIS SIDE OF HAYATO-KUN, DON'T I?

OH... THAT'S RIGHT.

SLIP

HM...?

I... ALREADY MADE A RESERVA-TION...

...HEY... SHALL WE STAY AT A HOTEL TONIGHT?

WHA?! I AM?!

YEAH...

YOU'RE RIGHT.

...

...THAT I NEED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT.

BUT FIRST, THERE'S SOMETHING...

WHAT IS IT?

WH...

IT'S NO USE... THEY'VE COMPLETELY CONCEALED THE R PRESENCE.

YOU GOT ANY-THING, AMI?

I HOPE THEY HAVEN'T GOTTEN INTO AN ACCIDENT...

I NEVER THOUGHT THEY'D STAY OUT THIS LATE!!

NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, THIS IS STRANGE!

RATTLE

I CAN'T TAKE ANY MOOORE!!

I WAS PLANNING TO GET HAYATO-KUN DRUNK AND TAKE HIM TO A HOTEL I'D RESERVED...

BUT HE...

RIHO-SAN!! WHAT'S WRONG?!

WHY ARE YOU AT AN IZAKAYA...?

OH...!

HELP ME, YOU GUYS!!

MM.

THESE PAIR WELL.

...
YEAH.

YOU'RE RIGHT.

OUKA...

HEY, HAYATO-KUN, HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN HERE DRINKING?!

IT'S TIME TO GO HOME!!

...THAT I NEED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT.

BUT FIRST, THERE'S SOMETHING...

WH...

WHAT IS IT?

HUH...?

*1603 - 1868 / ***1336 - 1573
**The "i" of "izakaya" comes from "iru" (to be), the "zaka" from "saka/sake" (alcohol), and the "ya" meaning "store".

THAT GUY...!

HUH?

INCIDENTALLY, IT'S SAID THAT DRINKING ESTABLISHMENTS SELLING ALCOHOL FROM VARIOUS DIFFERENT ALCOHOL COMPANIES FOR PEOPLE TO DRINK ON-SITE WERE FIRST ESTABLISHED AS EARLY AS THE MUROMACHI PERIOD***.

STAYING AT A LIQUOR STORE AND DRINKING ALCOHOL**...THAT'S WHAT THE WORD IZAKAYA WAS FIRST USED FOR.

DID YOU KNOW? THE WORD IZAKAYA ACTUALLY COMES FROM THE EDO PERIOD*. LIQUOR STORES LET THEIR CUSTOMERS DRINK ALCOHOL IN FRONT OF THE STORE ITSELF.

WHEN HE'S DRUNK HE BECOMES A SUPER ANNOYING ASSHOLE WHO GIVES YOU A LECTURE ABOUT WHATEVER RANDOM CRAP IS IN FRONT OF HIM!!

I CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE!!

HE JUST SPENT TWO HOURS GOING ON ABOUT THE KUROSHIO CURRENT* AND ITS EFFECT ON THE NUTRIENT LEVELS IN BLUEBACK FISH**!!

YOU'VE HAD A TOUGH TIME, HUH?

LET'S GO HOME AND HAVE OUR OWN DRINKING PARTY, RIHO-CHAN.

YEAH ...

I'LL JOIN YOU.

LET'S TALK ABOUT FUN STUFF...

AMI-CHAN, GO AND PAY THE HOTEL BILL AND THROW HAYATO-KUN IN A ROOM THERE.

OKAAAY !!

YOU CAN BUY SOME SNACKS ON THE WAY BACK.

*A north-flowing ocean current on the west side of the North Pacific Ocean, similar to the Gulf Stream.
**Japanese cuisine differentiates fish which have a rich and fatty taste, in addition to the white and red meat fish categorization used by other countries. Examples are sardine, mackerel, and herring.

THE NEXT DAY

...

THAT'S AN UNFAMILIAR CEILING...

チュン TWEET

チュン TWEET

The Café Terrace and Its Goddesses

Kodansha Digital Edition

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